

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A universal hose clamp for locking a hose in position relative to the hose clamp comprising a universal hose locating mechanism, a hose coupling for connecting the hose to the universal hose locating mechanism, and a securing means for securing said locating mechanism to a support structure wherein the universal hose locating mechanism comprises a first locking mechanism which moves between a locked and an unlocked position such that with the hose coupled to the hose coupling, and the first locking mechanism ~~when~~ in the unlocked position, the hose coupling has unlimited rotational movement about an axis in ~~the~~ a horizontal plane.

2. (currently amended) A universal hose clamp as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the universal hose locating mechanism further comprises a second locking mechanism which moves between a locked and an unlocked position such that with the hose coupled to the hose coupling, and the second locking mechanism ~~when~~ in the unlocked position, the hose coupling has unlimited rotational movement about an axis in ~~the~~ a vertical plane.

3. (currently amended) A universal hose clamp as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the first and second locking mechanisms comprise a handle assembly, a connection means and a stab pin wherein the first and second locking mechanisms are in the unlocked positions when the handle assembly is in a plane parallel to the stab pin, and the locked position when the handle assembly is rotated to lie in a plane perpendicular to the stab pin.

4. (currently amended) A universal hose clamp as claimed in Claim [[2]] 3, wherein the securing means comprises a first female member suitable for receiving the stab pin of the second locking mechanism and a base clamping mechanism suitable for clamping the universal hose clamp to a support structure that comprises an existing railing or pole.

5. (currently amended) A universal hose clamp as claimed in Claim [[3]] 4, wherein the securing means comprises a second female member, suitable for receiving the stab pin of the second locking mechanism, and a portable independent frame.

6. (currently amended) A universal hose clamp as claimed in Claim [[4]] 5, wherein the portable independent frame is a tripod.

7. (currently amended) A universal hose clamp as claimed in Claim [[1]] 3, wherein the hose coupling comprises a third female member suitable for receiving the stab pin of the first locking mechanism thus allowing the hose coupling to be removed from the universal hose locating mechanism when the first locking mechanism is in the unlocked position.

8. (previously presented) A universal hose clamp as claimed in Claim 4, wherein when the second locking mechanism is in the locked position the stab pin of the second locking mechanism lockably engages with the first female member.

9. (previously presented) A universal hose clamp as claimed in Claim 5, wherein when the second locking mechanism is in the locked position the stab pin of the second locking mechanism lockably engages with the second female member.

10. (previously presented) A universal hose clamp as claimed in Claim 7, wherein when the first locking mechanism is in the locked position the stab pin of the first locking mechanism lockably engages with the third female member.

11. (previously presented) A universal hose clamp as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the hose coupling further comprises a gripping aid, a mounting band and a hose securing means.

12. (previously presented) A universal hose clamp as claimed in Claim 11, wherein the gripping aid is made of a flexible material comprising rubber.

13. (previously presented) A universal hose clamp as claimed in Claim 11, wherein the gripping aid is cylindrical in shape.

14. (previously presented) A universal hose clamp as claimed in Claim 11, wherein the mounting band is cylindrical in shape.

15. (previously presented) A universal hose clamp as claimed in Claim 11, wherein the hose securing means is a screw thread mechanism.

16-19. (cancelled)